

Application No. 10/776964
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2B-11476-US01

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated **October 22, 2004**. In the office action, claim 2 was objected to and claims 1-3 were rejected as obvious over Holmberg in view of Bunch.

In response, applicants have amended claim 1 so that claims 1-3 distinguish over the cited combination and claim 2 has been amended to overcome the objection. Claims 1-3, as amended, are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Holmberg discloses a steering drive wherein the rotation of a steered wheel about a vertical axis is generated by a motor through a gear arrangement. However, Holmberg is completely silent with respect to any noise absorbing means.

Bunch discloses a gear having a circumferential groove which accommodates a resilient ring which is engaged by the meshing gear. However, the resilient ring is not provided for noise absorbing purposes, rather it is to facilitate the positioning of a first and second gear so that the backlash is minimized and in turn the wear of the teeth of the gears (Col. 1, last line and Col. 2, lines 1-2). Bunch fails to disclose a gear made of two gear disc forming the circumferential groove for the accommodation of the resilient ring. Therefore, the combination of the two references fails to meet claims 1-3, as amended.

To summarize, the combination of Holmberg and Bunch fail to disclose a noise absorbing member, and further fail to disclose a ring gear made of two gear discs forming the circumferential groove which accommodates the ring-shaped noise absorbing member. Therefore, claims 1-3, as amended, are not met by the combination of Holmberg in view of Bunch. Claims 1-3 are in condition for allowance, and their allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 24, 2005

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